



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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August 3, 2001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OFFICIALS FINED FOR PDC VIOLATIONS

Olympia – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Christine Yorozu, levied fines ranging from \$50 to \$500 against governmental officials who failed to file statements of personal financial affairs. Some 5,500 officials are subject to this annual reporting requirement.

“I am continually amazed at the number of elected and appointed officials who ignore the law and fail to file the required financial reports,” Yorozu said.

Elected officials and certain state appointed officials are required under state statute to file an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement with the Public Disclosure Commission by April 15th reporting financial activity for the preceding year.

“Filing reports that disclose financial interests and holdings is more than a formality,” Yorozu said. “It’s a means for the public to have tangible proof that officials are acting in the public interest and not for their private gain.”

The governmental officials who were issued a civil penalty had previously been sent two warning letters asking them to comply with the reporting requirements. A postcard reminding each official of his or her obligation to file was sent on May 17, 2001 and an opportunity to pay a \$50 fine and forego an enforcement hearing was sent on June 15, 2001.

On July 30, brief enforcement hearings conducted by PDC Chair Yorozu were held. Officials found in violation at the hearing will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.

Officials from Northwest Washington who were assessed a penalty at the brief enforcement hearing were:

- Cecil Stuurmans, School Director, Coupeville District #204, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 - current personal financial report has not been filed.
- Victor Benson, Fire Commissioner, Skagit Fire Protection District, assessed a civil penalty of \$250 - current personal financial report has not been filed.
- Eleanor Ray, Commissioner, Fidalgo Parks and Recreation District, assessed a civil penalty of \$250 and reimposed a \$50 penalty - current personal financial report has not been filed.
- Stephen Ruhl, School Director, Sedro Woolley School District #101, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 - current personal financial report has not been filed.
- Brian Calvert, Commissioner, Port of Friday Harbor, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 - personal financial report is currently on file.
- Robert Gamble, Commissioner, Port of Orcas, assessed a civil penalty of \$500 - current personal financial report has not been filed.
- Bernard Thomas, School Director, Ferndale School District #502, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 – personal financial report is currently on file.